(b) whether it is a fact that at the caves, there are neither police staff nor officials from the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation or the Archaeological Survey of India which are the official caretakers of the monument; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in response to the tourists' complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) A few instances of harassment of foreign tourists at Ajanta caves have been received, which were taken up with the Superintendent Police of the area, the Secretary (Tourism), Government of Maharashtra and the Director General of Archaeological Survey of India by our India tourism Offices.

(b) and (c) The official caretaker of this monument is Archaeological Survey of India, which has its own security services. Policemen and officials of MTDC are also posted there. These authorities have been requested to keep vigil to avoid recurrence of such instances of harassment. The Ministry of Tourism has a Complaints Cell which monitors complaints received from all over the country.

Benefits to Rajasthan from New Oil Reserves

*414. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several places in Rajasthan have reported having petroleum/oil reserves;

(b) if so, the sources of such reserves, quantity-wise;

(c) whether commercial exploration has been undertaken;

(d) if so, the details of PSUs/Private MNCs engaged in such exploration; and

(e) the amount of royalty accrued to Rajasthan Government and other likely benefits being provided/planned for Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a), (b) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details of the

discoveries made by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and Cairn Energy India Pty. Ltd., a foreign company operating in the State of Rajasthan are given in the table below:—

Sl. No.	Name of Disoovery	Type of Discovery	Place	In-place reserves (MMTOE)*
Oil India Limited				
1.	Tanot	Gas	Jaisalmer	2.515
2.	Dandewala	Gas	Jaisalmer	6.375
3.	Bagi Tibba	Gas	Jaisalmer	0.310
4.	Baghewala	Heavy Oil	Bikaner-Nagaur	14.60
ONGC				
4.	Manhera Tibba	Gas	Jaisalmer	1.25
5.	Ghotaru	Gas	Jaisalmer	0.97
6.	Khartar	Gas	Jaisalmer	0.30
7.	Bakhri Tibba	Gas	Jaisalmer	0.06
8.	Bankia	Gas	Jaisalmer	0.15
9.	Sadewala	Gas	Jaisalmer	0.04
10.	Chinnewala Tibba	Gas	Jaisalmer	0.58
Cairn Energy India Pty. Ltd				
11.	Guda	Oil	Barmer	Not commercial
12.	Saraswati,	Oil	Barmer	2.36
13.	NA-1	Oil	Barmer	2.34
14.	Rageshwari	Oil	Barmer	4.67
15.	Mangia	Oil	Barmer	34.3
16.	GR-F	Oil	Jalore	1.21
17.	Kameshwari	Oil	Barmer	Under apprisal
18.	N-C-1	Oil	Barmer	-do-
19.	NV	Oil	Barmer	-do-

* Million Metric Tonne of oil equivalent

Besides the above, Phoenix Overseas Ltd., and Indian company is also operating in an exploration block, RJ-ON/6 in the State of Rajasthan.

(c) OIL and ONGC are already producing gas from Jaisalmer basin at the rate of 0.45 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meter Per Day (MMSCMD) and 0.06 MMSCMD respectively. The produced gas is supplied to Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited for power generation at Ramgarh.

(e) During 2003-04., the amount of royalty paid by OIL and ONGC to the State Government of Rajasthan was Rs. 1.21 crore and Rs. 0.22 crore

respectively. Other benefits include payment of Petroleum Exploration License/Petroleum Mining Lease fee and applicable taxes.

Receding Ground Water Level

*415. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the basis of surveys conducted during the last 20 years *i.e.* 1983 to 2003, the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has pointed out that ground water level has receded by more than 4 more metres in 306 districts of 20 States;

(b) if so, the names of such districts, State-wise;

(c) the details of the measures suggested by CGWB to check receding of ground water level; and

(d) if so, the details regarding implementation of the measures suggested by CGWB by the Central and State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) A long-term analysis of ground water levels by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources during the years 1983—2002 indicates decline in ground water levels by more than 4 meters in parts of some districts of various States of the country. The names of the States/districts having pockets of declining water level in the last twenty years (1983—2002) are given in the Statement (see below)

(c) In order to check receding of ground water level, the following measures have been suggested:—

(i) Ground water resources augmentation through rain water harveting and artificial recharge to ground water.

(ii) Regulation of ground water development through notification and legislation.

(d) Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to plan, finance and execute schemes for augmenting water resources. The Central Government has initiated